

Public Officials,

Freedom of speech is worthless in this day and age if the only tool allowed to the speaker is his or her own unaided, unaugmented voice. It took unfettered use of the printing press to bring about the Reformation, as the (oppression-geared) church leaders of the day were slow to recognize how many more people could read Luther's 99 questions once copies flew from Guttenberg's press.

Today's battle is between old world content industries and the free society that nurtured that very same group. I agree with others closely watching the development digital "broadcast flag" issue, that the most essential rights and interests in a free society are those of the public and that the tools members of the society and public use for speech - our First Amendment - should not be allocated to a class of actors who set themselves above the rest of the public, with the aid of a government bureaucracy.

"Free citizens," say the concerned watchers, "are not mere consumers; they are not a separate group from so-called 'professionals.'" The stakeholders in a truly just information policy in a free society are the public, not those who would reserve special rights to control public uses of information technology."

As a voting, concerned citizen of this free country, I say: Repent! Do not give -even more- to those who already have so much; do not take from those of us who already have such stifled voices. Refuse to cater to the wealthy special interests, act instead in the interests of the people who pay your wages, who justly expect you to protect our interests rather than those of the wealthy and already privileged, those with all the voice-enhancing tools at their command.

Thank you for listening.  
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